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### Title

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XVI INTERNATIONAL PIGMENT CELL CONFERENCE

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## Introduction

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE XVI INTERNATIONAL PIGMENT CELL CONFERENCE

The mechanism for the selection and publication of the Proceedings of the International Pigment Cell Conference continues to evolve.

Abstracts from all non-invited speakers were ranked NIH-style by the scientific organizing committee. Selection for the limited number of platform presentations was made based on competitive scores. This methodology resulted in an unusually broad range of topics being presented and a gender distribution of first authors proportionate to the number of abstracts submitted. This suggests to us that this approach is preferable to selection choices being made in a non-competitive fashion and in fact competitive rankings will be continued for the XVII IPCC. Another unique feature was the introduction of a limited number of poster discussion sessions. These were popular and lively, although too short, and will be continued in the future.

All keynote and invited speakers as well as a few selected speakers who had presented unusually interesting

papers were asked to submit papers, with a due date 6 weeks after the conference. Our peer reviewers have been tough and over half required further work before acceptance. Unfortunately it was necessary to reject several for the Proceedings although authors were encouraged to submit their papers for publication in *Pigment Cell Research*. These papers overall are of unusually high quality and largely represent the high points and future direction of pigment cell research.

The majority of the Proceedings will be published in the first two issues of Vol. 10 and the remainder in the third issue, and publication in the first two to three issues in the year following a IPCC meeting might be a good precedent to establish.

My co-chairs Alistar Cochran and Roger Bowers and I have enjoyed organizing the XVI IPCC and preparing these proceedings. We wish you "Happy Reading."

Frank L. Meyskens, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Orange, California, February 1997